

REMARKS

Claims remaining in the present application are Claims 1-2, 4-18 and 20. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended. Claims 3 and 19 have been cancelled, without prejudice. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Claims 8-16 are indicated as allowed. The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating these claims as allowed.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Claim 3 is objected to but indicated as allowable if re-written to incorporate all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating these claims as allowable.

Claim 1 has been rewritten in independent form, including all limitations from Claim 3. As such, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Heisley, U.S. Patent 6,333,623 (hereinafter, Heisley). Claim 18 has been cancelled, without prejudice. Therefore, the rejection to

Claim 18 is rendered moot. The rejection to Claims 1-2, 4-7, 17, and 19-20 is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is respectfully believed to be allowable for reasons discussed above. Claims 2 and 4-7 are respectfully believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependency from Claim 1.

Currently Amended Claim 17 recites, in part:

if said signal is above said pre-determined threshold, limiting a current at said output node without regulating said voltage at said output node, wherein said limiting the current at the output node comprises mirroring a current in a transistor to said output node when said signal is above said pre-determined threshold to limit said current at said output node.

Applicants respectfully assert Heisley fails to teach or suggest these claim limitations. Claim 17 has been amended to recite limitations that are respectfully believed to render Claim 17 allowable in view of the Examiner's reasons for allowance.

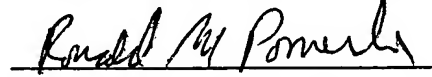
Claims 18 and 20 depend from Claim 17 and are respectfully believed to derive patentability at least therefrom.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above-listed amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present Application. Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant response, the Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,
WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP


Ronald M. Pomeranke
Registration No. 43,009

Address: WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP
Two North Market Street
Third Floor
San Jose, California 95113
Telephone: (408) 938-9060 Voice
(408) 938-9069 Facsimile